AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-16. (canceled).

17. (previously presented) A purified recombinant DNA of human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1), wherein the DNA comprises the sequence:

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      8570        8580        8590        8600        8610
GGGGGACTGG  AAGGGCTAAT  TCACTCCCAA  CGAAGACAAG  ATATCCTTGA

      8620        8630        8640        8650        8660
TCTGTGGATC  TACCACACAC  AAGGCTACTT  CCCTGATTGG  CAGAACTACA

      8670        8680        8690        8700        8710
CACCAGGGCC  AGGGGTCAGA  TATCCACTGA  CCTTTGGATG  GTGCTACAAG

      8720        8730        8740        8750        8760
CTAGTACCAG  TTGAGCCAGA  TAAGGTAGAA  GAGGCCAATA  AAGGAGAGAA

      8770        8780        8790        8800        8810
CACCAGCTTG  TTACACCCTG  TGAGCCTGCA  TGGAATGGAT  GACCCTGAGA

      8820        8830        8840        8850        8860
GAGAAGTGTT  AGAGTGGAGG  TTTGACAGCC  GCCTAGCATT  TCATCACGTG

      8870        8880        8890        8900        8910
GCCCGAGAGC  TGCATCCGGA  GTACTTCAAG  AACTGCTGAC  ATCGAGCTTG

      8920        8930        8940        8950        8960
CTACAAGGGA  CTTTCCGCTG  GGGACTTTCC  AGGGAGGCGT  GGCCTGGGCG

      8970        8980        8990        9000        9010
GAACTGGGGA  GTGGCGAGCC  CTCAGATGCT  GCATATAAGC  AGCTGCTTTT

      9020        9030        9040        9050        9060
TGCCTGTACT  GGGTCTCTCT  GGTTAGACCA  GATTTGAGCC  TGGGAGCTCT

      9070        9080        9090    9097            10
CTGGCTAACT  AGGGAACCCA  CTGCTTAAGC  CTCAATA     AAGCTTGCCT
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        20          30          40          50          60
TGAGTGCTTC  AAGTAGTGTG  TGCCCGTCTG  TTGTGTGACT  CTGGTAACTA
        70          80          90         100         110
GAGATCCCTC  AGACCCTTTT  AGTCAGTGTG  GAAAATCTCT  AGCAGTGGCG

       120         130         140         150       159
CCCGAACAGG  GACTTGAAAG  CGAAAGGGAA  ACCAGAGGAG CTCTCTCGA
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18. (previously presented) The purified recombinant DNA of claim 17, wherein said nucleic acid is labeled with a label selected from the group consisting of a radioisotope, an enzyme, a fluorescent label, and a chromophore label.

19. (previously presented) A method of using the purified recombinant DNA of claim 17 for detecting the presence of HIV-1 RNA comprising:

(a) providing a cell-free supernatant of a biological fluid comprising cells infected with HIV-1;

(b) disrupting HIV-1 virions in the cell-free supernatant to release HIV-1 RNA; and

(c) detecting the presence of HIV-1 RNA by contacting the HIV-1 RNA with the purified recombinant DNA of claim 17 and detecting hybridization between the HIV-1 RNA and the purified recombinant DNA.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the biological fluid is blood.

21. (previously presented) A method of using the purified recombinant DNA of claim 18 for detecting the presence of HIV-1 RNA comprising:

(a) providing a cell-free supernatant of a biological fluid comprising cells infected with HIV-1;

(b) disrupting HIV-1 virions in the cell-free supernatant to release HIV-1 RNA; and

(c) detecting the presence of HIV-1 RNA by contacting the HIV-1 RNA with the purified recombinant DNA of claim 18 and detecting hybridization between the HIV-1 RNA and the purified recombinant DNA.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the biological fluid is blood.

23-24. (canceled).

25. (previously presented) A method for detecting the presence of HIV-1 RNA comprising:

(a) providing a cell-free supernatant of a biological fluid comprising cells infected with HIV-1;

(b) disrupting HIV-1 virions in the cell-free supernatant to release HIV-1 RNA; and

(c) detecting the presence of HIV-1 RNA.

26. (canceled).

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the presence of HIV-1 RNA is detected by contacting the HIV-1 RNA with the DNA of claim 17 and detecting hybridization between the HIV-1 RNA and the purified recombinant DNA.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the presence of HIV-1 RNA is detected by contacting the HIV-1 RNA with the DNA of claim 18 and detecting hybridization between the HIV-1 RNA and the purified recombinant DNA.

29. (new) A method for preparing HIV-1 RNA for detecting the presence of HIV-1 RNA comprising:

(a) providing a cell-free supernatant of a biological fluid comprising cells infected with HIV-1;

(b) disrupting HIV-1 virions in the cell-free supernatant to release HIV-1 RNA.

30. (new) The method of claim 29, further comprising detecting the presence of HIV-1 RNA by contacting the HIV-1 RNA with the DNA of claim 17 and detecting hybridization between the HIV-1 RNA and the purified recombinant DNA.

31. (new) The method of claim 29, further comprising detecting the presence of HIV-1 RNA by contacting the HIV-1 RNA with the DNA of claim 18 and detecting hybridization between the HIV-1 RNA and the purified recombinant DNA.

32. (new) A method for preparing HIV-1 RNA for detecting the presence of HIV-1 RNA comprising:

(a) providing a cell-free supernatant of a biological fluid comprising cells infected with HIV-1;

(b) isolating HIV-1 virions from the cell-free supernatant; and

(c) disrupting the virions to release HIV-1 RNA.

33. (new) The method of claim 32, further comprising detecting the presence of HIV-1 RNA by contacting the HIV-1 RNA with the DNA of claim 17 and detecting hybridization between the HIV-1 RNA and the purified recombinant DNA.

34. (new) The method of claim 32, further comprising detecting the presence of HIV-1 RNA by contacting the HIV-1 RNA with the DNA of claim 18 and detecting hybridization between the HIV-1 RNA and the purified recombinant DNA.

35. (new) A purified fragment of the recombinant DNA of claim 17, wherein said fragment comprises the sequence: CTCAATAAAGCTTGCCTTG.

36. (new) The purified fragment of claim 35, wherein said nucleic acid is labeled with a label selected from the group consisting of a radioisotope, an enzyme, a fluorescent label, and a chromophore label.

37. (new) A method of using the purified fragment of claim 35 for detecting the presence of HIV-1 RNA comprising:

(a) providing a cell-free supernatant of a biological fluid comprising cells infected with HIV-1;

(b) disrupting HIV-1 virions in the cell-free supernatant to release HIV-1 RNA; and

(c) detecting the presence of HIV-1 RNA by contacting the HIV-1 RNA with the purified fragment of claim 35 and detecting hybridization between the HIV-1 RNA and the purified fragment.

38. (new) The method of claim 37, wherein the biological fluid is blood.

39. (new) A method of using the purified fragment of claim 36 for detecting the presence of HIV-1 RNA comprising:

(a) providing a cell-free supernatant of a biological fluid comprising cells infected with HIV-1;

(b) disrupting HIV-1 virions in the cell-free supernatant to release HIV-1 RNA; and

(c) detecting the presence of HIV-1 RNA by contacting the HIV-1 RNA with the purified fragment of claim 36 and detecting hybridization between the HIV-1 RNA and the purified fragment.

40. (new) The method of claim 39, wherein the biological fluid is blood.